

REACH HIGHER

Lakeshore Excellence Foundation

CALLING ALL GOLFERS!



Golfers and sponsors please visit: LEFonline.org/scramble

The 16th Annual Lakeshore Scramble presented by the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation.

GOLFERS: We have had a full roster of golfers the past two years, don't miss out on getting your team registered for this year's golf outing.

SPONSORS: Sponsors make this event possible so that all proceeds can go to benefit the students and teachers of Lakeshore Public Schools.

The Lakeshore Scramble will be held Monday, June 18, 2018 at the Harbor Shores Golf Club in Benton Harbor. The event begins with a 8:45 A.M. shotgun start.

Golfers & Sponsors please visit: LEFonline.org/scramble

trustees

J.C. Anderson
Sharon Austin
Sophie Bauchet
Kate Beckrow
Randy Bettich
Chad Deja

Ray Elmore
Phillip Freeman
Rachel Hall
Jeff Hannan
Jim Keppler
Lori Marciniak

Kim McAllister
Lisa McDowell
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Kameron Morris
Julia Pechtel
Jim Roberts

Jenny Ryan
Bill Scaletta
Laurie Schmidt
Kim Thompson
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LEF
LAKESHORE
EXCELLENCE
FOUNDATION



Becoming an active member of Lakeshore Alumni Association is easy.
Just take a minute to complete the simple registration form at LEFonline.org.

Thank you, 2018 Auction Donors!

\$15,087

The mission of the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation is to acquire and distribute resources that support various Lakeshore Public School programs and projects aimed at enhancing, enriching, or supplementing learning opportunities for students, staff, and community. We appreciate your support!

The 2ND ANNUAL LEF ONLINE AUCTION FUNDRAISER was held February 4 - 10, 2018 with ALL proceeds benefiting Lakeshore Public Schools.

221 Main
-- Restaurant & Cocktail House
Adler Planetarium
Affinity Salon & Spa
-- Renee Borah
Anytime Fitness - Stevensville
Applebee's
-- Neighborhood Grill & Bar
Berrien County
Bill Scaletta
Bit of Swiss
Bittersweet Ski Resort
Bob Lausman
Boyne Golf
bread+bar by Bit of Swiss
Chad & Lori Deja
Chateau Chantel
Coach's Bar & Grill
Cracker Barrel
Curious Kids' Museum
Dura Mold
Elmore Financial Services
Fanatics
Fire and Ice
-- Pizzeria & Creamery
Fort Miami CrossFit
Fred and Sandy Welch
Frederick and Kimberly's
-- Hair/Skin/Nails
Full Circle Cafe & Espresso Bar
Grand Hotel

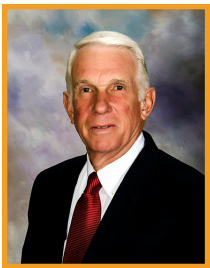
Grande Mere Inn
Hair Innovations & Day Spa
Harbor Shores Golf Course
Hartline's
-- Greenhouse & Garden Center
Hoopla Frozen Yogurt
Indian Lake Hills
J.C. and Nancy Anderson
Jim and Chantel Keppler
John Ball Zoo
Kilwin's St. Joseph
Lakeshore High School
-- Athletic Department
Lakeshore Petroleum/Napier Shell/
Lakeshore Shell
-- John, Kathy & Mark Curtis
Maddog 5/1
Magfit
Mark III Grille & Bar
Martin's Super Markets
Mary Jo Tomasini
Matt Mantei
Melanie and Shelley at Allure Salon
-- (Stevensville)
Michael Lovelace
Modern Day Knights
Mary Jo Risetter, Nutrizone
Phil and Marie Freeman
Phil and Melissa Molloy
Randy Bettich
Rick Waning

Roger Mojsiejenko
-- Mortgage Advisor, United FCU
Santaniello's
Schu's Grill & Bar
Sharon Austin
Shedd Aquarium
Silver Beach Pizza
Silver Harbor Brewing Company
SMSO (Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra)
Soft Touch
Southshore Raquet Club/Mark Ficks
Taylor Rental
Texas Corral Grill & Saloon
The Boulevard Inn & Bistro
The Buck Burgers & Brew
The Field Museum
The Mason Jar Cafe
The Turquoise Top Hat
Treetops Resort
Twin City Players
Val D. Adams
Walt Disney World
Whirlpool Corporation
Wings Etc.
Zoup

LEF thanks all of our donors. You make a difference for every student and every teacher in Lakeshore Public Schools.

Lakeshore Excellence Foundation Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund is our long-term strategy to funding the LEF mission of learning for generations to come. Annually, the LEF Board evaluates the health of the fund, makes contributions based on giving and project needs, and reinvests the earned interest. If you are interested in learning more about the Endowment Fund, please contact J.C. Anderson at (269) 921-2513 or email at anderjcna@gmail.com.



J.C. Anderson
LEF Chairman

To the Lakeshore Community ...

as we reflect on 2017, it is clear that now, more than ever, LEF and thus the students and teachers of the Lakeshore Public

Schools have much to be thankful for with the ongoing and growing support of the community.

LEF operates on a calendar year (January- December) and indeed it takes all 12 months in the year to work with our school's administrators and School Board to strategize on the future needs of the school system where funding will be needed. Funding per student remains low and will deliver the basics of the basics. However, we want the education of our students to be extraordinary. That means an organization like LEF is needed to fill in the gaps and make the extraordinary possible.

In 2017, nearly \$500,000 was raised for Lakeshore Public Schools.

What does this mean for our students and teachers? First, the funding for the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) program is now fully funded for 2018. It also means that we were able to work with the administrators and School Board to confirm and commit to our next big project, **Reading Matters**. With the 2017 funding, we were able to begin support of this program as of January 2018. A year ahead of schedule.

Reading Matters is a comprehensive overall improvement to the reading curriculum for grades K-12. The goal is that every student will read at their grade level, find personal joy and interest in reading, and realize the benefits of reading in their life-long pursuits.

Think about this, reading proficiency impacts nearly everything a student encounters.

The essence of the **Reading Matters** curriculum is that students who enjoy reading outperform their peers by 1.3- 3.3 years as they progress through school. Now that is extraordinary!

As a 501c(3) organization, we take our fiduciary responsibility seriously. Each year, LEF holds two fundraisers, which more than cover any expenses we have to administrate LEF. We just completed our second annual Online Auction with proceeds of over \$15,000. This summer we will hold our 16th Annual LEF Golf Outing at Harbor Shores where we expect to raise another \$25,000. The profitability of these fundraisers is primarily due to local businesses who generously donated goods and services. Please take a moment to review the list of auction donors in this newsletter and make sure you thank the proprietors of these organizations for their support of Lakeshore Public Schools.

So what expenses do we have within LEF to cover? In 2018, we expect to spend \$22,000 (4.5%) on items such as this newsletter

(our largest expense), updating our website for online grant applications and a touchpoint to learn more about LEF, a reception for Lancer Leaders (those who commit \$1,000 or more per year to LEF) to share with them the results of LEF funding, and finally accounting/auditing fees to ensure that the money raised is managed appropriately. As with any organization, we continually find ways to improve what we do and we will keep our costs low.

Looking ahead at 2018, we realize that LEF and all of you will continue to be an important part of giving our students and teachers the extraordinary experience they deserve. There is still a significant gap between what the schools receive per student (\$7631) and the amount required to meet the basics. (~\$9500.)

In closing, I'd like to share a statement from the National Education Association that I believe summarizes what we, as the Lakeshore Community, do so well.

"When schools, parents, families, and communities work together to support learning, students tend to earn higher grades, attend school more regularly, stay in school longer, and enroll in higher education programs."

Together, we make the extraordinary possible!

Sincerely,
JC Anderson
Chair, LEF



Sarah Slavicek Tate, Class of 2000

Tell me a little about your time at Lakeshore, what you were involved in, what year you graduated, favorite teachers, etc.?



Sarah Slavicek

I attended Lakeshore schools from kindergarten through my graduation in 2000, and I am incredibly thankful for the opportunities I was given throughout my education. From Mrs.

Daniel's marble jar to Mr. Adler's "aching crunch" to APUSH with Mr. Jager, my school experience paved the way for me to become an educator. I always knew I wanted to be a teacher, probably because I had such great examples, but it was not until I took Mr. Jager's AP U.S. History class in tenth grade that I knew I wanted to be a history teacher. Other favorites include Mrs. Urban, Mrs. Darato, Mr. McKenzie, and Mrs. VonKoenig, each of whom motivated me to achieve at a higher level than I thought possible. I was also involved in band from fifth through twelfth grade, and served on Student Council and in the National Honor Society in high school.

Where did you attend college, job history and how you got to where you are today?

I received my BA from Western Michigan University in 2004, where I majored in history and minored in social studies, and moved to the Atlanta area in the summer of 2005 to begin my teaching career. I taught eighth grade Georgia history for seven years, four years at G.P. Babb Middle School and three years at Forest Park Middle School, with Clayton County Public Schools. This large, urban, incredibly diverse district was the polar opposite of my experiences at Lakeshore, which pushed me to develop as a teacher, leader, and person.

While there, I earned my MA in Curriculum and Instruction through a satellite program from Central Michigan University, and was also named a Georgia Master Teacher. Over the course of those seven years I was a yearbook advisor, swim coach, grade level chair, department chair, and whatever else they needed me to be. After my seventh year I transitioned into a district level position where I trained, mentored, and supported other social studies teachers as an Instructional Facilitator. While in that position, my husband and I decided to move back to Michigan and he was able to transfer in his job to the Grand Rapids area. We moved shortly after our son was born in 2013, and after a year off from teaching I took a position as a special education paraprofessional with Hudsonville Public Schools. I worked part time at Baldwin Middle School for two years, which was perfect for our growing family. We welcomed a daughter in 2015 and in early 2016 I applied for a position in the History Department at Grand Valley State University. I started as an affiliate faculty member in the fall of 2016 and am now in the middle of my second year as a Laker, teaching a social studies methods course for elementary teachers and a capstone course for the Comprehensive Science and Arts for Teaching (CSAT) program

Who or what impacted you to become a professor at Grand Valley State?

When I look at my career path, none of it was what I expected! I graduated from WMU in 2004 thinking I would stay in Michigan, teach at the high school level, and settle in for the long haul. But life had other plans, and I am incredibly grateful for the opportunities I've had over the years – to teach at the middle school level, to live in another state, to experience other classrooms as an Instructional Facilitator and paraprofessional, and finally to be teaching at Grand Valley State University. I was not aware that I could teach at a four-year college without a PhD, but when I started looking for a full-time job and this opportunity presented itself, I jumped at it. I have always been driven to succeed, which I know is a product of my environment growing up, both at home and within Lakeshore schools. So many of my teachers put in long hours, had a positive attitude no matter what, and believed in us as students, and that continues to motivate me to persevere. Now that I'm at GV it is such a joy and privilege to share my experience and passion for social studies education with preservice teachers while continuing to work in the field of education.

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Any fun memories from high school you want to share?

This one time ... at band camp ... ☺

Seriously though, some of my favorite memories are of my time spent in various band activities, and those experiences had such a positive impact on me from fifth through twelfth grade. We were so fortunate to have Mrs. VK as our band director and to have such a supportive community. Not many schools have such a large, vibrant

music program, and the discipline, work ethic, and passion instilled in me continues to bring me in success in my endeavors.

I also have a core group of friends, some who were in band and some who were not, who I have kept in contact with over the years. Although the five of us are only able to meet up all together about once a year, it is like we've never left. The conversations flow, fun stories are told, and we are at ease like only those who've known you for 20+ years can be.

Eva Kor Visits Lakeshore Holocaust Survivor, Forgiveness Advocate



Eva Kor, Holocaust survivor, spoke to Lakeshore 8th, 11th and 12th graders

Lakeshore Middle School eighth graders and groups of eleventh and twelfth grade students attended Eva Kor's presentation in the high school auditorium.

Parents and other community members were also invited to attend this event during the school day.

A Holocaust survivor, forgiveness advocate, and revered public speaker, Eva has emerged through a life of trauma as a brilliant example of the power of the human spirit to overcome.

For over an hour, she shared with the students about her

experiences in Auschwitz where she and her twin sister, Miriam, were part of a group of children used in genetic experiments under the direction of Dr. Josef Mengele. Eva became gravely ill as a result of these experiments, but through sheer determination, she stayed alive and helped Miriam survive.

After her presentation, Eva conducted a book-signing session where she talked with students, parents, and staff individually.

"We are thankful for the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation for sponsoring this event for the second year and providing an amazing opportunity once again for our students."



Due to the LEF's generosity, five grades of Lakeshore students over the past two years have had the chance to hear this Holocaust survivor's powerful story in person.

**More information about Eva Kor can be found at the website for her museum and non-profit organization:
candleholocaustmuseum.org**



Dr. Gyl Kasewurm

Named Distinguished Alumni 2018



Dr. Gyl Kasewurm

VISIT DRGYL.COM

Dr. Gyl has owned and operated Professional Hearing Services (PHS) in St. Joseph, Michigan for over 30 years. Her motto then and now continues to be, *"Work hard, offer the very best to patients and do whatever it takes to help them hear better."*

A lifetime resident of Michigan's Great Southwest, Dr. Gyl graduated from Lakeshore High School in 1976 and went on to achieve her Doctorate in Audiology from Central Michigan University. Dr. Gyl has earned many awards and honors including a Distinguished Achievement Award from the American Academy of Audiology but is most proud of the Leadership Award that was bestowed upon her by her local Chamber of Commerce. She was recently honored by Western Michigan University as a Distinguished Alumnus, an honor awarded to only 99 of the more than 17,000 graduates of the College of Health and Human Services.

Dr. Gyl is a well-known author and sought after speaker and prides herself on her advice on taking a practice from *Fine to Fabulous!* She enjoys traveling with her husband David and loves shopping for shoes!

Dr. Gyl will be recognized at a reception with family and friends. She will then be a guest speaker at the 2018 Lakeshore Commencement on June 3rd. We are proud to name Dr. Gyl Kasewurm as our Lakeshore Distinguished Alumni recipient.

Economic Club

LEF has the privilege to host area high school students at the Economics Club speaker series. For the past several years, LEF has hosted students from Lakeshore, St. Joseph, Bridgman, Berrien Springs, Michigan Lutheran, Lake Michigan Catholic, and Home School groups. Approximately 50 students and chaperones attend each speaker event.

At every speaker event, the students have the unique opportunity to attend a private Q&A session with each speaker, then they proceed to a conference room to watch the speaker's presentation on

a large monitor, and their session ends with a facilitator lead discussion about what they just heard from the speech. It is a great way for students from across our region to come together and hear some great notable speakers such as Mitt Romney, Anderson Cooper, Captain Scott Kelly, Former British Prime Minister David Cameron and Dave Ramsey. This opportunity also allows them to share their thoughts and ideas with students from different schools.

Thank you to Lake Michigan College, the Mendel Center and the Economics Club in helping to provide this wonderful experience with today's young adults.



Lakeshore Excellence Foundation Grants

Deadlines for grant applications are coming soon!

What are you doing this summer? For some students and teachers, their summer includes ongoing learning opportunities made possible with a LEF Grant.

Other grant requests are for enhanced programs and tools. One thing we know for sure, EVERY student and teacher is reached through grants and major projects from the LEF.

In 2018, the LEF will offer up to \$185,000 in grants.

Grants supplement the funds available through school funding, or in the case of students, personal fundraising in order to make the experiences possible for everyone.

Grant Deadlines:

04-15 Stepping Stones (for students)

04-15 Foundation Project (over \$2500)

05-01 Professional Development

10-15 Staff Support (up to \$2500)

Stepping Stones - Grants for students K-12 to explore personal interests.

What do you want to be when you grow up? A common question posed to our students and even as adults sometimes we wonder what we want to be! Life is a life-long journey of experiences.

For students who are interested in learning more, we offer up to \$12,500/year in grants to explore those interests. The variety of experiences are as diverse as the interests of our students.

Examples of Stepping Stones grants:

- Fine Arts Camp
- Music/Musical Theatre Camps
- Marine Biology in the Caribbean
- Rotary Interact Trips
- Junior Golf Tournaments
- Culinary Academy

Foundation Project - Grants awarded to teachers for projects over \$2500

Examples of grants in the 2016/2017 school year:

- Holocaust Survivor Speaker, Eva Kor, for grades 8 -12
- Updating and adding machinery in the woodworking shop
- "Daily Living" curriculum for students with special needs
- Introducing Virtual Reality technology to the learning environment - high school

Professional Development - Grants awarded to teachers for personal learning and development

Examples of grants in the 2016/2017 school year:

- Advanced Placement (AP) National Conference, Washington, DC
- Teachers College Summer Institute - to learn the new Reading Matters curriculum and share experiences with teachers across the U.S.
- Choral, Music, and Music Learning Theory Conferences
- Teachers of Mathematics Conference
- Michigan Association of Computer Users in Learning

Staff Support - Grants awarded to teachers up to \$2500

Examples of grants in the 2016/2017 school year:

- First Lego League/Robotic Teams in all three elementary schools
- 3D printers
- Reading program enhancements

Visit LEFOnline.org for more information and online applications.

YOU SHOP. AMAZON GIVES.

There are 80 million Amazon Prime members in the US. 40% of Amazon Prime members spend over \$1,000 annually. The average spend is \$1,300.

Make your back-to-school (& every day) shopping at Amazon count!

smile.amazon.com

Choose select or change your charitable organization. Select Lakeshore Excellence Foundation. From then on, any eligible purchase will result in 0.5% going to the charity.



Reading Matters - The next LEF Major Project

There is excited and then there is **EXCITED!**

The latter would describe the state of mind of Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Julie Powell, when learning that the implementation of a new reading curriculum for grades K-12 could begin in January 2018. A full year ahead of original expectations.

After nearly two years of evaluating reading curriculums, meeting with benchmark school systems, and assessing the fit with Lakeshore Public Schools, the wait is finally over. A curriculum has been chosen for K-8, teachers have begun their professional development, and funding became available in January 2018 to buy reading materials to support this program.

So what's new? Reading is reading, right? Is this all about better test scores?

The answers to these questions and many more will become evident as we share stories from teachers and students over the next year.

The first story to be told is the evolution of the classroom library. For the past two years, the requests for LEF Grants to fill teachers' classrooms with a variety of books have increased from elementary to high school.

Why the classroom and not the library? The answer is simple. Students spend the majority of their time in

their classroom and having the reading materials close makes it easy for students to choose a book, read it, return it and look for another book at their pace, not on "library day."

While students still routinely go to the library in grades K-8, the trips are less frequent and when they are in the library the purpose of that space continues to evolve. A few years ago, through the generosity of LEF donations, the five school libraries were remodeled into 21st Century Learning Centers. This space now houses presentation spaces, green room and filming capabilities, has modular furniture to adapt to any use, and of course, books.

Back to the classroom. Teachers talk with students every day to learn their interests and make reading and age appropriate recommendations within the classroom library. Then during the required independent reading time, which varies per grade level, the teacher will interact with students to ask questions about what they're reading and make sure they are engaged in the particular book and comprehending what they are reading. Books not enjoyed are often books unread (anyone remember CliffsNotes™ from their school days?).

A successful reading curriculum is one that engages the student whether they like mysteries, comedies, biographies, books about art or making things. In order to reach the broad spectrum of interests, many level appropriate books need to be available.

This is just the beginning of creating an atmosphere where reading is enjoyable. We want to help all readers create "a reading life" for school and for their life and careers beyond school.

NEXT NEWSLETTER: teachers and the professional development in the new curriculum.

Lakeshore graduates succeed in all walks of life.



**DISTINGUISHED
Alumni Award**

Our graduates have made their mark as innovative entrepreneurs, caring parents, skilled technicians, business

and civic leaders, educators, veterans, medical/legal professionals, and in a host of other valued roles that make our world a better place.

Do you know a distinguished Lakeshore Alum that should be recognized?

Nominations are taken each fall. Watch for the August newsletter or nominate online at LEFonline.org/distinguished-alumni-nomination-form

CLASS OF 1968 - 50TH REUNION

Class of '68, your 50-year reunion is coming. For information and to get your name on the list, please visit



the LEF website at lefonline.org, click the Alumni tab, and then find the 50-year Reunion tab and enter your information. Hope to see you!